

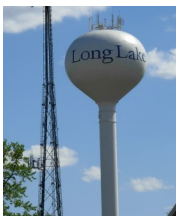
## **CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER FRANCHISE FEES TO FUND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN CITY PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At their July 7 meeting, the Long Lake City Council approved the City's updated Pavement Management Plan, or PMP (revised July 2020). With each PMP update, the pavement condition of the City's streets and trails are reviewed and rated. The PMP identifies streets in need of mill/overlay or full reconstruction, estimates potential street project costs, and establishes a schedule by which street projects are forecast to be undertaken. The PMP is updated regularly, as road conditions change and the ability to finance a project may warrant delaying a potential project to a later start date.

Over the next couple of months, the City Council will be considering implementing a franchise fee ordinance in order to collect franchise fees and provide a new dedicated revenue source to fund street and trail projects as identified in the City's Pavement Management Plan. Cities in Minnesota are allowed by state law to tax local utilities (gas and electric) for their use of public road right-of-way to conduct their services. These fees, called franchise fees, are typically passed by the utility companies directly through to all commercial businesses, tax exempt properties, and residents. Franchise fees are not tied to the value of a property and levied the way property taxes are levied; thus all single family homes would pay the same amount towards the Pavement Management Program assuming they have both gas and electric services.

The process to implement franchise fees requires cities to hold a public hearing (likely to be held September 1), pass an ordinance, and provide at least a 60-day notice to the utility companies before the franchise fee becomes effective. A number of other Hennepin County cities also utilize franchise fees. A franchise fee ordinance would put language in place to ensure fees may only be used for the specific purpose identified in the ordinance - in Long Lake's case, to fund street reconstruction projects and PMP improvements. If a franchise fee ordinance is adopted, franchise fees would be implemented beginning with January 2021 billings.

*As Council discussions continue, more information will be available on the City's website and will be sent out via the City Listserv email subscriber list.*



## **WATER TOWER CLEANING PROJECT**

The City's water tower on Willow Drive will be getting a thorough cleaning, inside and out. The City Council recently approved a contract with a qualified service provider to complete the work. Cleaning will take place on July 20 and July 21.

## **PAY YOUR LONG LAKE UTILITY BILL ONLINE**

Visit our City website at [www.longlakemn.gov](http://www.longlakemn.gov) and click on the "Pay Utility Bill Online" button. City of Long Lake residents and businesses can pay utility bills online with their checking/savings bank account (ACH) or with a credit card. Want to autopay? You can set up an autopay to deduct your full balance on the date your bill is due by selecting "Pay on Bill Date" as your payment date, using today's date as your Start Date, and leaving the End Date field blank.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR**

In our spring newsletter, I wrote how much the world had changed since my last message and, unfortunately, the same holds true yet again. Besides the evolution of COVID-19, events in our metro area have spread around the world. Hopefully, the end result will be more cohesion and empathy in our society.

City staff continues to evaluate the COVID-19 situation as it applies to our city. Per their recommendation, we have decided to open the beach at Nelson Lakeside Park this summer, assuming we do not have the need to change course. However, social distancing is required to be observed, and drinking fountains will not be turned on this summer in our parks. Although it is important that we have as much citizen involvement in our City Council meetings as possible, we are continually evaluating when the time will be right to have Council meetings in the Council Chambers at City Hall again instead of via Zoom as they have been since our March 24th meeting. Fire Chief Van Eyll has been helping to guide us through this process.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation led to the postponement (and likely cancellation) of this year's Buckhorn Days. When it comes to Corn Days, the traditional full parade has been canceled and the Church of St. George will be holding "Corn Days to Go", offering fresh and roasted corn on a drive-through basis. As these events have been an annual tradition for our city for years, it is a very unfortunate situation, but I applaud the organizers for making the safety of our community the priority.

Besides takeout and limited indoor seating, most of our restaurants have outside seating available as well so please continue to frequent them, along with our other businesses in Long Lake. Although wearing a mask is not mandatory in Minnesota as of this writing, please consider wearing one when shopping in Long Lake as you are not only protecting yourself - you are protecting others.

Our Public Works Department is contracting to have spray patching completed on several roads that need potholes and other abnormalities repaired. The goal is to maintain roads that are in otherwise good structural condition. An exception is Grand Avenue, which is also in need of a full reconstruction. The work has commenced and the roads to receive spray patching treatment include:

- Grand Avenue and part of Glendale Drive
- Bollum Lane and Bollum Circle
- Apple Glen Road
- Daniels Street
- Orchard Circle

Thanks to a member of our community, we now have our own Long Lake Garden Club that will focus on maintaining plantings around our two monument signs along CR 112 as well as other publicly owned lands. The Club will be a great addition to keeping our city looking beautiful. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to [longlakegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:longlakegardenclub@gmail.com)

Enjoy your summer Long Lake and get out and enjoy the weather if you are able to.

*Charlie Miner, Mayor*

## INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR CITY OFFICE? ELECTION FILING OPENS JULY 28, 2020

The following municipal offices will be included on the November General Election ballot:

- **Mayor** - Two year term beginning January 2021
- **Council Members** - Two seats, four year terms beginning January 2021

To run for the Mayor or a Council Member seat, candidates must file with the Long Lake City Clerk during regular business hours between July 28 and August 11, 2020 (filing will be accepted until 5:00 pm on the last day). To file, please contact Jeanette at 952.473.6961 x1 or by email at [jmoeller@longlakemn.gov](mailto:jmoeller@longlakemn.gov). We'll either set up a time for you to file in person at City Hall, or provide materials to allow you to file electronically. The filing fee for all municipal office candidates is \$2.00 (payable by check or cash in the exact amount, or by credit card with additional transaction fees applying), or petition in lieu of filing fee. For more information about eligibility requirements or the filing process, please contact Jeanette at 952.473.6961 x1. Additional information may also be found on the city's website.



## WHEN AND WHERE WILL ELECTIONS BE HELD?

On Primary and General Election days, voting hours are from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The voting location for all City of Long Lake

residents is Long Lake City Hall, 450 Virginia Avenue. The Minnesota State Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, August 11. The Minnesota State General Election (ballot includes city offices) will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

## APPLY FOR YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT TO VOTE AT HOME / VOTE EARLY



Absentee ballots for either or BOTH the August 11 Primary and November 3 General election may be applied for online at: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>. You can also visit our website at [www.longlakemn.gov](http://www.longlakemn.gov) and click on the button at left - "Vote by Mail / Apply for Absentee Ballot". Links to both the online and paper application form are available in multiple locations on the City's website as well. **Hennepin County Elections will be mailing your absentee ballot(s) to you, so please, don't wait ... apply now to allow adequate time for mail delivery and mail return.** Please note that there will be no in person absentee/early voting at Long Lake City Hall prior to the upcoming Primary election - voters have the option to absentee/early vote by mail, or to vote in person at City Hall on election day.

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Political campaign signs can be displayed until 10 days following the General Election. Per Minnesota law, there's no limit to the number of campaign signs you may have on your property. Political campaign signs may be placed only on private property with the property owner's permission. All signs must be freestanding. Please don't attach anything to signs. Balloons, pennants, banners and whirling devices, or other moving parts are prohibited. Signs may not be attached to trees, poles, fences, utility poles/boxes, or any other sign.

**PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY** - Signs can't be placed in any portion of a city, county or state road, sidewalk or right-of-way. For Long Lake streets, this means signs must be placed at least 10 feet back from any street edge. Remember, county roads and state highways have a much wider right-of-way.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



### "CORN DAYS TO GO"

Saturday, August 8 (Rain Date: Sunday, August 9)

11:00 am to 6:00 pm

The Church of St. George, 133 Brown Road N, will be holding "Corn Days to Go" on Saturday, August 8 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm (rain date will be Sunday, August 9). "Corn Days to Go" will offer roasted or fresh corn for curbside pickup on a drive-through basis in the Church parking lot. Donations for corn will be accepted. Volunteers working the event will be observing COVID-19 safety protocols.

### LONG LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL "FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE"

Monday, October 5, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

The Long Lake Fire Department will hold their annual "Fire Prevention Open House" at Fire Station 1, 340 Willow Drive N, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, October 5. This year's Open House will feature "hands-off" learning booths that will ensure visitors can remain at a safe distance while learning many important things about fire safety. Please be sure to visit the Long Lake Fire Department's Facebook page and watch their "Fire Safety Video Challenge"! The LLFD is inviting the community to



help them spread the word about fire safety by creating short safety videos and submitting them - videos will be distributed on the LLFD's Facebook page during Fire Prevention Week in October.

### "NIGHT TO UNITE" RESCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6

This year's annual statewide "Night to Unite" has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 6 (subject to change). Night to Unite gatherings each year allow for neighbors to get together and discuss the theme of the day - looking out for one another. As the date draws closer, information on registering your neighborhood for a Night to Unite event will be sent out via the City's Listserv email subscriber list and the City's Facebook page.

### CITY STAFF

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### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional contact information, resources, and City news, please visit the City of Long Lake website at [www.longlakemn.gov](http://www.longlakemn.gov).